MODERN TIMES

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New Haven

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October 15-31

Hospital Workers Burn Over Hot Kitchen

by New Haven Occupational Safety And Health Group

In the summertime, a kitchen is a very hot place to be. The Dietary Department at Yale-New Haven Hospital is no exception. This summer, the sweltering members of Hospital Workers' Local 1199(who work in the kitchen)decided to do something about the heat. They knew that heat can be a very serious occupational hazard, as well as a source of discomfort. The Union filed a grievance with the hospital management, asking that air conditioning be installed to protect the dietary employees from overexposure to heat.

Early in the summer, Local 1199's Safety Committee distributed a questionnaire, asking if workers had ever experienced symptoms of overexposure to heat. Some of these symptoms are headache, excessive fatigue, dizziness and nausea. Everybody who responded thought the kitchen was uncomfortably hot in the summer, and a majority reported having had symptoms which they felt were caused by the heat. One woman had fainted from the heat the previous summer.

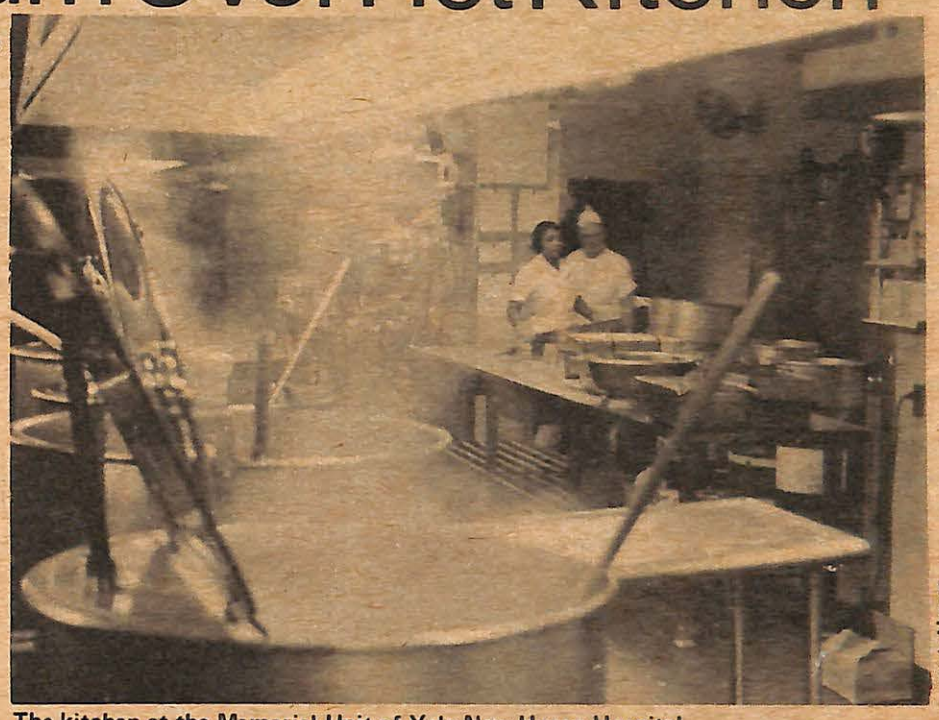
To support 1199's grievance, the New Haven Occupational Health and Safety Project(NHOHSP) visited the kitchen periodically in the summer to take heat measurement. They used a Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer, an instrument which takes into account not just the temperature of the air, but also the humidity and the amount of breeze. On hot days, temperatures in certain areas of the kitchen, such as the dishwashing room, and the area near the steam tables which are used to keep the food hot, were well above the danger limit.

The danger limit, set by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, is the temperature above which people risk suffering serious health problems from the heat. Unfortunately, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration(OSHA) has not yet issued a standard which outlaws dangerously high temperatures in the workplace. So Local 1199 could not file an official complaint with OSHA.

Union Asked For Air Conditioning

The Union asked for air conditioning, because that is the only way to eliminate a heat hazard once and for all. The hospital does furnish fans for the kitchen, but simply blowing very hot, humid air around does not do the workers much good. The Union also asked that, until air conditioning is installed, the hospital begin several safety practices. Workers should have access to salt tablets, to replace the salt lost from the body though sweating. They should be trained to recognize

see HEAT page 8



Nick Heyer

The kitchen at the Memorial Unit of Yale-New Haven Hospital.

"Ah. Fresh meat."

money talks Ford's Economics: Model "T" Thinking

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

Despite the big publicity build-up, President Ford's new economic plan to stop inflation will fail. It is not really new; it's less a plan than a bunch of band-aid proposals for a deep economic illness, and it's too small to make much impact on the inflation. Also, it is extremely unjust in its out and out favoritism to big business. We can prove all this by just a brief review of the "plan's" basic parts and an even briefer look at just one of several better alternatives.

Ford's basic idea is to raise about $5 billion in new taxes and then spend them in such a way as to stop the inflation. Nice trick, except when you remember that the government now collects and spends $300 billion per year. It is hardly likely that new taxes and spending, amounting to under two percent of current government activity, can be enough to "turn America around" and "whip inflation now." It's something like warding off a herd of stampedeing elephants with a fly-swatter.

About half of the $5 billion in new taxes is to come from a surcharge (five percent) on individual income taxes. Those who will be paying more are individuals earning over $7500 per year and married couples (who file joint tax returns) who earn over $15,000. So, for example, a married couple with two wage earners making $20,000 and raising one child can expect to pay an extra $150 per year. For millions of families already *hard hit by the inflation, this must be a hard pill to swallow, especially in view of the treatment of business.*

Business Gets Special Treatment

The other half of the $5 billion in new taxes is to come from a similar tax surcharge on corporation incomes. But, and this is the important clue to who is driving the Ford in the White House, the corporations are to be allowed to make new deductions in their taxes that are larger than the surcharge. Big business which takes advantage of these new "investment tax credits" will therefore come out ahead of the game.

To put this all in cold statistics: of the $5 billion in new taxes to be raised, about $2.5 billion will immediately be lost in taxes no longer being paid because businesses are taking advantage of the new deductions. And, we should note that the industry that stands to benefit most from these new deductions is the public utility business, which will now gain hundreds of millions in addition to the "fuel adjustments" bonanzas of recent time.

Where Does the Money Go?

Our math shows that we are left with about $2.5 billion in new money leaving our pockets for the government treasury under Ford's "plan." What is he going to do with it? A small part, maybe half a billion, will go to fund the Community Improvement Corps, the idea of creating public works jobs in local areas where unemployment goes over 6.5 percent at the same time as national unemployment goes over six percent. Another small part--no figures have been given out yet--will fund the extension of unemployment

see PRESIDENTS page 7

inside

RECLYCLING.....PAGE 3

VAN HEUSEN.....PAGE 4

CLUW.....PAGE 6

AT PRESS TIME:

Last Sunday, employees of the Bridgeport Holiday Inn voted in favor of a contract settlement thus ending a 16 month strike.

The vote, 52-3, gave Local 217 of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers a well earned victory.

The new contract is a 26 month contract with substantial wage increases and fringe benefits. Also, the Inn has to fire the scabs that were hired to replace the 217 ers. John Wilhelm,Secretary-Treasurer, said,"We are very happy with the contract. It was a difficult strike againist a stubborn owner. People stuck together for 16 weeks and came out with an excellent settlement".

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An Open Door for the Old & Forgotten

as told to Modern Times by Mary DeStefano and Vera Serio

Mary DeStefano and Vera Serio have lived in Fair Haven all their lives, and their children are now growing up in Fair Haven. They have always been active in the neighborhood, and both have been involved with the Fair Haven Community Health Clinic from the beginning. For the past year, they have worked with the clinic as Vista Volunteers, becoming particularly involved in the general health care of the elderly.

There are lots of poor, elderly people living alone and sick all over New Haven. They can't function alone, they're depressed, fearful to answer the door or go out. They eat poorly and live badly.

Agencies that are involved with the Elderly (Sage Advocate, Welfare, Visiting Nurse Association, Board of Health, Red Cross, etc.) are restricted by legal and financial limitations. Confronted with a problem, these groups commonly reply, "There's nothing we can do."

For example, Mrs. M. is an 84 year old woman who was living all alone in an apartment in Fair Haven. Her landlady called the Red Cross, and, "unable to do anything", they called us. When we arrived we found a depressed, dehydrated woman who wasn't eating and was having hallucinations. We also found burned paper plates and began to fear for the safety of the woman and her neighbors.

The solution seemed obvious to us. She couldn't live alone, even with homemaker assistance, so she belonged in a nursing home under supervision. It took more than a week of constant work with the bureaucracies and legalities to get her into a nursing home, and today, two months later, the issue still isn't really settled.

The Long Process Begins

First we called some convalescent homes, but they wouldn't touch her. There wasn't cash available to pay them, so they wouldn't take her. They wouldn't even take the responsibility temporarily until the courts or Welfare settled the problem. Cash-money was the important thing. So we had to turn elsewhere.

We called agencies--but legalities prevented them from acting. The woman had relatives, but even though they were unwilling to take responsibility, no agency would get involved.

Since her state of health was so poor we finally took her to Yale-New Haven Hospital (getting police and ambulances involved). But the resident, first annoyed that we had brought her on a Friday evening, finally saw the only solution as sending her to Connecticut Valley Hospital, a mental institution. We knew that she needed hospital care for her physical state and then something for her psychological problems (which involved senility) but not a mental institution.

She was sent up to CVH that night, and we spent the rest of the weekend and early week dealing with the Courts and the Welfare Department.

We settled the financial problem by entering her apartment again with a neighbor (the police couldn't do it), and finding bankbooks, uncashed checks and money. We then went to the State Attorney's office, the probate court, the City Welfare Director, doctors for formal letters, to convalescent homes to find a place and finally to ambulance services to find a way to transport her from CVH to the convalescent home. (It turned out that areas for emergency medical transportation are districted, and CVH to New Haven cut across two districts.)

That week we became very educated and very pushy. At first we found the courts, in particular, to be a very frightening experience with legalities and writs. But the thing we'd like to stress is that regular agencies are not always doing what they should and people have to get involved. You don't run any legal risk--you just push different people to do the things they're really repponsible for doing. We're really glad now that we made the effort.

Four days after Mrs. M. was committed to CVH she was transported to the Nursing home in Woodmont. We visited Mrs. M. and couldn't believe the complete change in her outward, physical appearance. Regardless of her senility, Mrs. M. seemed a much healthier human being.

The courts finally appointed an attorney responsible for her affairs, but it still isn't completely settled. We found, during this time, that we were always asked if we were relatives. The hospital, the police, the courts and the nursing home couldn't believe the concern was there from strangers. They were actually caught off-guard, that a place like the Fair Haven Clinic was really concerned.

Elderly Clinic Scheduled

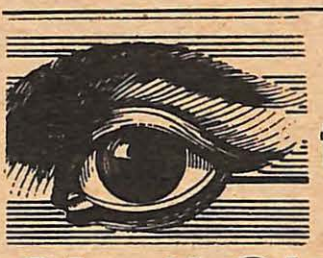
The Clinic is small but tries to provide services for the Elderly. On the last Wednesday each month we run a clinic only for the elderly. We advertise at the different housing projects and Atwater Senior Center, and people call for appointments. We provide transportation, a comfortable social atmosphere, samples of some supplies and good medical care (general physical, Pap test, eye exams). If social or financial problems exist, we try to follow the person up with an outreach worker. People tell us all the time what an important service this is for them, but we're still so small and there are so many people who need help.

The problem of the elderly isn't solved by trapping the elderly in housing projects that make big profits for builders. Despite the "social clubs", many elderly are just left alone there. If agencies for the elderly would concentrate on what was available already and inform people about those services, give discounts on food, doctor, pharmacy, and, very important, provide transportation for shopping and entertainment it would help solve the problem. Also, if the City had a convalescent home again which would take responsibility for interim care until a person was transferred permanently, people like Mrs. M. would avoid agony and shame getting into a nursing home. If the City could not do this, it should recognize the alternative of hastening the admission of any elderly person into a supervised nursing facility. It should consider some interim financial agreement with the superintendent of a private nursing home.

The Fair Haven Clinic now has a problem. People are finding out what we're doing and feel that we're miracle workers. We have proven our capabilities and our reputation has built up a lot of trust--but the problem is larger than a small agency like us can handle, and there have to be better solutions developed soon.

Nick Heyer

Until recently, elderly people in Fair Haven had little support. The Fair Haven Health Clinic has started changing things.



eye on the board

Shall City Take UI?

by Andrew Esposito
Modern Times Staff

At the Board of Alderman's October 7 meeting a step was taken that could profoundly affect the future of of all New Haveners. David Warren (D-2) offered a resolution calling for a feasibility study on the municipalization of the United Illuminating Co. (UI). The resolution will be referred to the Aldermanic Committee on Municipal Services for study, where it stands a good chance for passage.

In addition to Warren, the resolution was co-sponsored by: Pasquale Fasulo(D-10), James Jones(D-27), Michael Natalino (D-14), and Sylvester Fusco(D-9)-all members of the Municipal Services Committee. The next step in the process is for a public hearing to be held. After the hearing and a study of the issue, the committee will make a recommendation, either favorable or unfavorable, to the full board. The board will then vote on the resolution; if accepted a panel to investigate the municipalization of UI will be named.

Key To Process

The key element in the whole process is the naming of the feasibility study panel. In order for the aldermen to cast an informed vote on the issue, they are going to need solid information. And here there is a problem.

The field of electrical power generation is a very narrow speciality. Very few people have the necessary backround to accurately analyze the many factors involved in public ownership. Also, in New Haven the position of alderman is not a full time job. Thus, we could not, in all fairness, expect board members to have enough time available to produce a detailed study.

However, there is a way to solve this problem. That is to appoint an outside consulting firm with experience in both electric utilities analysis and municipal ownership. New Haven can hire the same firm whose study lead to public ownership in Massena, New York, and who is studying public ownership of their gas utility in Wallingford, Ct.

The Drawback

There is only one disadvantage to this procedure. It costs money to hire an outside consultant. And in New Haven the purse strings are controlled by an appointed Board of Finance, which responds solely to Mayor Guida. Since,to date, he has shown scant interest in using city funds to pay for such studies, there is little hope of having the city pay for an outside firm.

Therefore, two possibilities exist. Residents from all areas of New Haven can organize and urge the mayor to approve funding for the study. Or outside funding can be found. At first glance, both of these alternatives appear to be long shots. However, the need for outside expertise is so overpowering that all options must be explored.

A Unique Opportunity

Through the Board Of Aldermen, the citizens of New Haven stand on the threshold of a unique opportunity. By acquiring the UI, the residents of the Elm City can in paying lower electric rates ease, somewhat, the strain on their incomes caused by inflation; lower their taxes while at the same time improving city services; and generate a climate producing more jobs.

Yet, to fully realize this opportunity it is essential that a solid feasibility study be conducted. UI will fight municipalization with all the resources at its command;and those resources are considerable. They will distort facts; presenting their position in the best possible light. The only way to counter such an onslaught is to be prepared with clear, accurate information. In order to have the needed knowledge, a top-notch study must be conducted.

A good start has been made. It is now necessary for electric consumers to speak out. To inform their alderman and Mayor Guida of their desire for a sound feasibility study, funded by the city. People can make their desires known by writing their Alderman and the Mayor. They can also attend the Municipal Services Committee's public hearing when it is held. New Haveners have a chance to gain some control over their everyday lives; they can own their electric utility company.

Nick Heyer

Alderman Dave Warren(D-2) is the mainstay behind the formation of a study group to investigate public ownership of the UI.

State AFL-CIO Meets

by John DelVecchio

I was a delegate to the Conn. State Labor Convention held in New Haven. I represented the United Steelworkers of America, at Bullard Machine Co. and Bullard Castings, Bridgeport. Several progressive resolutions were submitted to the convention.

One resolution on Chile strongly condemned the violent overthrow of a democratically elected government, expressed our concern over the executions and jailings of Chilean unionists and citizens, and called for immediate restoration of democratic and union rights, and failing this, called for the U.S. to withdraw recognition of Chile(the Junta Gov.) and end all aid.

There was considerable discussion on this resolution, and many delegates displayed concern over Chile's situation. However, the resolutions committee wanted to substitute the national AFL-CIO resolution on Chile, which is not strong enough, and erroneously condemns the Allende Gov. for Chile's problems. Concerned delegates worked against this move, and instead, the convention voted to send the resolution back to the Executive Board of the CSLC, asked them to take the new revelations about the CIA and U.S. involvement in Chile, and forward a new resolution suggestion to the national AFL-CIO.

Boycott on Rhodesia

On Rhodesian Crome, the convention gave at least 99% vote in support of a strong AFL-CIO national resolution calling for U.S. observation of economic sanctions against racist Rhodesia, including repeal of the Byrd Amendment. Several delgates spoke on this issue and their comments were well received by the convention.

A resolution calling for OSHA(Occupational Safety and Health Act) implimentation of strong foundry industry health standards, including annual x-ray examinations, passed unanimously.

A resolution on "Independent Political Action" calling for the CSLC to sponsor a conference with other progressive groups to explore the need for creation of a new independent political movement, was defeated, although delegates from several unions spoke in favor, and I would estimate that 10-20% of the delegates were in support of the resolution.

Resolutions calling for continuance of CSLC rank and file regional meetings on labor issues, starting an annual outing for all Conn. AFL-CIO union families , and financial support for the Young Unionists were all referred to the Executive Board with favorable reports.

Union Farmworkers Supported

In his address to the delegates, President John Driscoll gave a strong and impassioned plea for continued assistance, financially and morally, to the struggle of the United Farm Workers and the grape and lettuce boycott. He also called in unionists to support the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, and the Council of Labor Union Women.

During the convention, an informal meeting was called to build support for a number of "progressive"resolutions(the ones mentioned in this article), and it was attended by delegates and representatives of Locals in the Steelworkers, Hospital workers, AFSCME, Teachers, Farm workers and IBEW.

Local 217 Cooks New Wins

The majority of the cafeteria workers in the town of Branford desire to be represented by Local 217 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, AFL-CIO.

Frank R. Annunziato, business agent for Local 217, said today, "We are just delighted with the enthusiasm this group of cafeteria workers has for our Union."

There are approximately 30 school cafeteria workers in the high school, intermediate school, and three of the elementary schools. Local 217 claims to represent over two-thirds of them.

Deplorable Wages

Annunziato continued, "The wages of these workers are just deplorable. Many of them are working at just a few pennies more than the minimum wage and the average wage for the whole system is probably no higher than $2.10 an hour."

"Add to these deplorable wages," Annunziato went on, "only a handful of these hard working women receive any medical insurance, and it's second rate, at best."

Petition Filed With NLRB

Local 217 has filed a petition with the Connecticut State Board of Labor Relations requesting them to conduct a secret ballot election among these workers to obtain Union certification.

"We hope," Annunziato continued, "that a secret ballot election will be held right away and that the Board of Education won't set up any road blocks to these workers' legal and democratic rights to Union representation."

Will Conduct Hearing on Petition

In a few weeks the Connecticut State Board of Labor Relations will conduct a hearing based on Local 217's petition. At that time, an election date will be set up by the Board.

"There is no doubt at all that the vast majority of these workers will vote the Union in--it's only a matter of time," Annunziato concluded his statement.

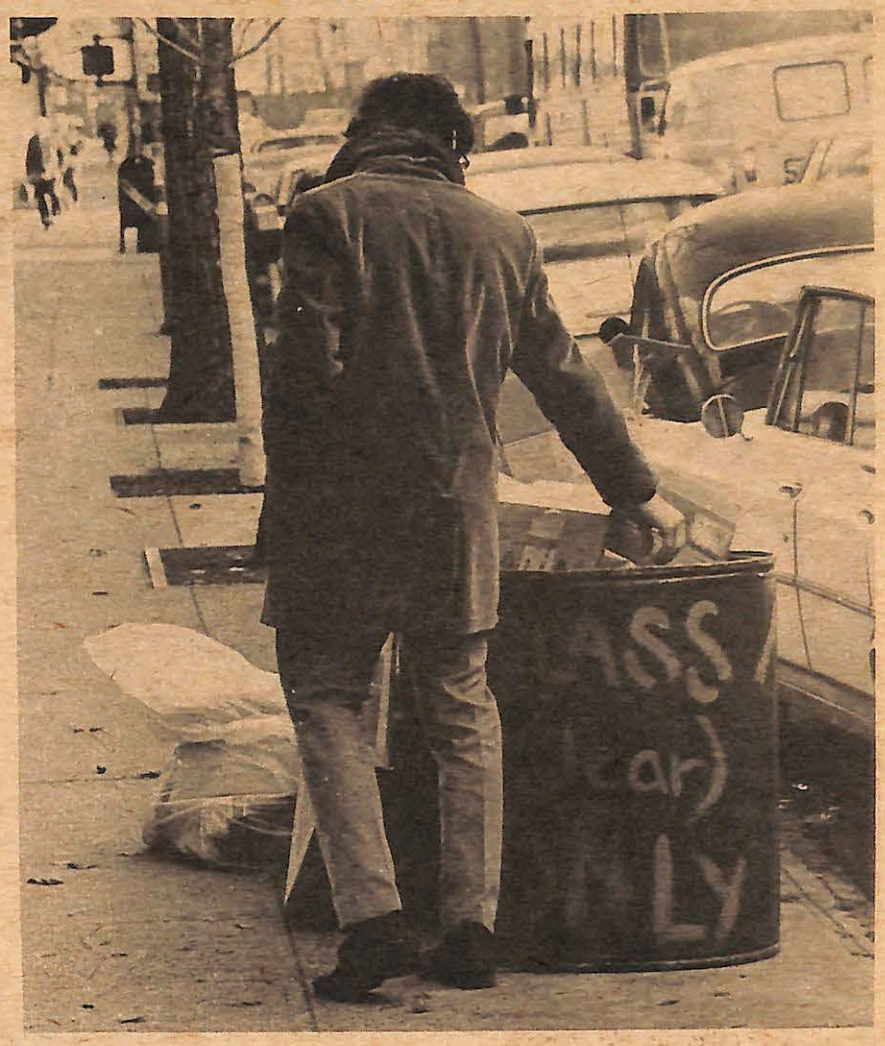
****

On September 25, 1974, the Amity Cafeteria workers voted 31 to 1 to join Local 217 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union.

According to John Wilhelm, Secretary-Treasurer of the union, the vote, which was conducted by the Connecticut State Labor Board, "marks a clear victory that will help bring success at the bargaining table."

The Amity system includes the towns of Woodbridge, Orange, and Bethany. The cafeteria employees in Milford, New Haven, Stratford, East Haven and Guilford are already represented by Local 217. Cafeteria workers in these towns receive at least $.40 per hour more than the Amity employees. In addition they enjoy many fringe benefits, including paid sick days, health insurance, and a uniform allowance.

Recycle Waste Paper Leave the Trees Alone



Alan Kay

Publicly visible and organized drives like Yale's glass reclycling campaign in 1970 have the best chances for success.

by Jane

Increases in population and the per capita use of paper are placing ever greater demands on our natural resources. If conditions remain the same, wood pulp will not be adequate to meet the demands by the mid 1980's;

By saving trees we will keep down the price of paper, conserve the economy and reduce inflation. Reclamation and use of each ton of paper spares 17 full-grown trees. This represents 3 2/3 acres of forest lands freed for some other productive use for one year. Our present rate of reclycling paper saves 200,000,000 trees a year. If the consuming industries would increase their use of reclycled paper in their raw material to 50 percent it would save 500,000,000 trees—a forest equal to the area of New England, New Jersey, New York , Pennsylvania and Maine.

There are many other reasons, besides saving trees, why reclycling is beneficial at this time in our history.

1) By reclycling paper instead of burning it we reduce air pollution. At least 50 percent of our garbage is made from paper and paper products. By reclycling we diminish our solid waste problems.

2) Reclycling saves land by reducing the amount of garbage dumped in landfill areas. These areas are rapidly being filled up in many places. This precious land could be used for housing, parks and farming if we learn to reclycle what we throw a way

3) Reclycling paper and other items reduces garbage disposal costs, thereby easing the tax load on you and me.

4) Less energy is used to reclycle waste paper than to make paper from solid wood. The school books the children read, the newspapers we buy at the corner, the toilet paper and napkins we use, the boxes our food comes in, even the insulation tiles on our roofs can all be made the energy saving way, by reclycling.

In the past our nation has based its laws policies and attitudes on the presumption of limitless natural resources. We have downgraded such considerations as energy conservations and solid waste disposal. We can no longer continue to disregard the warnings of growing shortages of energy. If we do persist, we will find many essential products and major resources disappearing.

5) The sale of reclyclable materials earns for many organizations.

Reclycling Is Easy

Reclycling is a simple process. Just designate a spot to pile your old newspapers and magazines. Reject junk mail, food boxes, and other kinds of paper. When the stack is five inches high, tie it; it will weigh over 12 pounds. For bottles, remove any metal rings from them and rinse them out. If you can't take them to be reclycled, several organizations will arrange to pick them up.

In the towns around New Haven, many reclycling centers have been set up. But no one here in the city of New Haven has taken the initiative to set up such a center for reclycling the city's used materials. West Haven, New Haven and Hamden have sporadic paper drives sponsored by religious organizations or scouting groups, but these provide nothing the community can count on from month to month.

New Haven needs a reclycling center. Anyone who is interested in taking the initiative to set one up here in New Haven should contact Ms. Jane Hemmerly-Brown at the I. Hershman Co., 777-4785 for ideas and help in the planning.

Hershmans Helps

One company that is doing something about reclycling is the I. Hershman Co. of New Haven. Hershmans, located at 50 New St., is the largest company to prepare paper for reclycling in Connecticut. They accept any quantity of newspaper brought in by the public at large and pay about$ 1.00 for every 100 pounds. Hershman's is open to receive paper from 6 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday and from 6 am to 11:30 am on Saturday.

Ms. Hemmerly-Brown will be glad to conduct interested persons on a tour of the I. Hershman Co. Plant, to show their operation of weighing, baling, storing and transporting paper. For a tour call Jane at 777-4785.

editorial

Key to Amnesty: Justice not Mercy

It is Justice, not Mercy, that demands "unconditional amnesty" for Vietnam War Resisters. For these men have been deprived of their live, liberty, and property by a massive violation of their legal rights. This unconstitutional disregard of commonly accepted legal guarantees was perpetrated by the U.S. Government and its administrative arms—the Selective Service System and the Armed Forces. The U.S. Government now owes these young men nothing less than full restitution of their rights, if not compensation for the damage it has done to them and continues to do to them.

Deferments were rights guaranteed by law, not favors bestowed by a non-accountable group of individuals; yet draft boards acted as if they could punish and reward draftees by granting deferments. This was particularly true when 1-A classifications were used as punishment, for political activity. These punishments were doubly illegal because while the draft process resulted in punishment, victims were not allowed legal counsel or any rights usually guaranteed to defendants.

The very operation of the deferment process was illegal. Draft boards were supposed to carefully consider each case, but because the whole concept of the citizen draft board was based on untenable assumptions, draft boards "considered "hundreds of cases in limited time. They could not possibly evaluate cases in thirty-five seconds. This meant that the real deferment power resided in the hands of the secretaries whose goals were solely bureaucratic— how do we meet our monthly quota?

The system did its vicious damage in the case of conscientious objectors. This classification was a right guaranteed by law, yet draft boards capriciously and consistently denied this classification. For example, religious values need not be a part of a CO claim, yet many draft boards, ignorant of it, refused CO claims because they were not based on religion. The frequency of this practice is suggested by the number of court cases that went againist draft boards. Yet most men did not go to court when they were denied their legitimate rights—they were too poor or too scared or too pressured by their parents. Instead, they fled the country. They became refugees in the same way that Jews became refugees in the face of pogroms, Italians in the face of rural poverty, and Irish in the face of starvation.

The U.S. Government is now in a position to reverse the injustices that it committed againist thousands of its citizens. Despite the whines of sunshine patriots, this issue is not a dispute between citizen and citizen but between citizen and government. It is not an act of mercy that suppliants are begging from the goverment, but a demand for justice that is the right of mistreated citizens.

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MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editors.

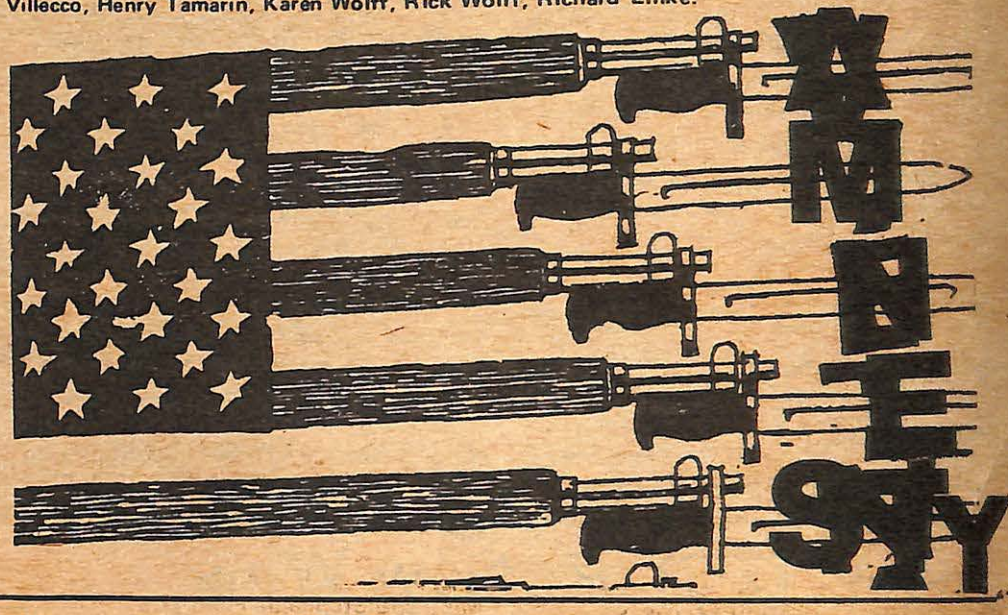
MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions from the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get this kind of news from profit-making commercial papers. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working men and women are told by them instead of their bosses. There is no place else where the problems of employment and education, and housing and health care are told by the people who have to live with them.

This is the richest country in the world. Yet most of the wealth is used only by a few. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. There would be no need to strike for paltry raises, waste our resources and labor on missiles and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need, not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the vested interests that run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care, and decent jobs.

STAFF:
Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Breuler, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Andy Esposito, Sam Goodwin, Barbara Greenwood, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Mike Holodnak, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Steve Mick, Patti Miller, Lee Nordlicht, Laurie Nussdorfer, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Ruth Resnick, Tish Villecco, Henry Tamarin, Karen Wolff, Rick Wolff, Richard Linke.



Van Heusen Takes The Workers to Cleaners

The history of the Phillips Van Heusen Co. presents a stark example of those elements of American industry--anti-union in their domestic operations--which in their unending search for lower and lower wages turn to foreign sources of production.

Overseas production of goods sold in America at U.S.-made prices certainly does not help the American consumer and leads to loss of job opportunities for millions of American workers. The AFL-CIO estimates that over 5 million jobs have been lost overseas in the last five years.

While runaway shops like Phillips Van Heusen are reaping enormous profits by moving production abroad and exploiting foreign labor, these same corporations are serving as a constant threat to all working people by undermining those living standards fought so hard for by the labor movement.

Not satisfied with low non-union wage rates in the U.S., Van Heusen, as a final threat to the unionized portion of the American shirt industry, has turned to overseas production of shirts , first in Hong Kong (where workers' earnings average about $.50 an hour) and more recently in Taiwan (where shirt workers are making about $.25 an hour).

Threat to Worsen Standards

Today, the Van Heusen company, with its 15 non-union shirt plants in the South, Southwest and Puerto Rico and with shirts imported from the Far East constituting part of its brand name sales to the American public (all at American-made prices), represents a major threat to the work and living standards of tens of thousands of unionized shirt workers, including those workers in the Gant, Sero, Planeta, D & I, Elm City and Fair plants in New Haven and the Pioneer, Panettiere and Gant plants in other areas of Connecticut.

The shirt industry is not unacquainted with fierce competitive pressures. Today about a third of all shirts sold are imports, most from low wage nations in the Far East. Another third are made by non-union firms, almost all of which are located in small towns or rural areas in the south. But the imports and the non-union made shirts are largely unbranded, sold in store basements or under store names. The brand name segment of the industry are all manufactured under union conditions negotiated by the ACWA(Amalgamated Clothing Wkrs. of America)with the glaring exception of Van Heusen, the second largest company in the industry.

The ACWA is presently carrying on two campaigns to end the threat that Phillips Van Heusen poses for the hard-won living standards gained by the unionized segment of the clothing industry. The ACWA is seeking to extend the benefits of union representation to workers in Van Heusen's many non-union Southern, Southwestern, and Puerto Rican plants by carrying on a traditional trade union organizing campaign. The ACWA has organizers at all non-union Van Heusen plants in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama.

Oppressive Measures

Van Heusen has responded to Amalgamated's organizing efforts with traditional anti-union employer ways. A campaign of unfair labor practices, which has greatly inhibited organizing efforts, began with the appearance of ACWA organizers. Threats of surveillance and interrogation are symbolic of oppressive words and deeds which should remind us of events taking place in some totalitarian government in some far-off land. But unfortunately this applies to the Van Heusen Company's campaign of fear launched against their workers' efforts to form a union.

The U.S. National Labor Relations Board has issued a complaint calling for a hearing on the Amalgamated charges that the Van Heusen Company has committed unfair labor practices in its Augusta, Des Arc and Brinkley Arkansas plants consisting of:

1) Interrogating its employees as to their union activities;
2) Threatening to close the plant in the event the employees joined a union;
3) Giving the impression to employees that their union activities were under surveillance;
4) Threatening employees with loss of jobs in the event they joined a union.

Favorable Response

Results of several thousand Van Heusen boycott telephone calls to residents in New Haven and other areas of Southern Connecticut indicate that the overwhelming majority of persons contacted acknowledged receipt of the State Labor Council's boycott Van Heusen mailing, were totally sympathetic with the ACWA's position on Van Heusen imports, and stated that they would not buy Van Heusen shirts. One lady said she was going to buy three Van Heusen shirts but purchased another brand after receiving the council's mailing. Another woman returned a Van Heusen shirt she had bought a few days earlier.

Several persons thanked the telephoners for informing them of the Van Heusen import issue. One disabled man called the boycott office and wanted to make a donation to the campaign. Another man wrote the boycott headquarters stating he would lend his support and hope that a similar campaign would be run to inform consumers of other corporations guilty of irresponsibility toward the American public.

The UAW-CAP Convention held in Cheshire September 12-13 and attended by 300 UAW delegates voted favorably on a resolution to support the Van Heusen boycott. The resolution was Adopted after the convention delegates described Van Heusen's quest for greater and greater profits at the expense of the American worker. The delegates also listened to ACWA boycott coordinator Ray Rogers and this year's Eugene Debs award recipient Henry Murray of New Haven spoke on the issues surrounding the Van Heusen boycott.

review
Long Wharf Premier: Sense of Reality

by Elizabeth Henderson
Modern Times Staff

With the American premier of SIZWE BANZI IS DEAD, the Long Wharf Theatre brings us a very special theatre experience. The play affords a rare mixture of richly human poetry and humor and of political wisdom, presented without dogma or kant.

SIZWE BANZI IS DEAD is the work of two black South Africans, John Kani and Winston Ntshona. They perform in the play which they themselves wrote, together with director Athol Fugard. Unlike so many shows that grew out of improvisations by the actors, SIZWE BANZI is tighly constructed and brilliantly written. It tells the simple stories of two men; of a factory worker who becomes a photographer and of a man who takes the passbook and the identity of a dead man in order to save his family. What makes these stories so powerful is their profound truthfulness. These are the real experiences of the actors themselves.

The basic message of this play is a familiar one—but one that bears frequent repetition in countries like South Africa and our own—that blacks are men, even though the white-controlled society around them denies them any humanity or dignity or chance of realizing their dreams. To extract this message, however, is misleading for to do so risks giving the impression that the play is heavy-handed and moralistic. It isn't. SIZWE BANZI is impressive for its life-affirming energy, the energy of the actor's performances of their understanding of the lives blacks are forced to live in South Africa.

The tremendous emotional impact of this play springs from its combination of simplicity and great sophistication in both the acting and the political analysis. In the first section in the role of Styles the photographer, John Kani, who in real life worked in a Ford auto plant, recounts the visit of Henry Ford to his South African plant. It is the familiar story of the frantic clean up job to impress the boss. But Styles plays all the roles—of himself as worker delighted with a break from routine, of the foreman and of Mr. Ford. With astonishing mimicry, Kani shows us all the masks which Styles and the white men consciously put on. We see his Uncle Tom

Photo courtesy of Long Wharf Theatre.

John Kani(left)and Winston Ntshono(right)perform in SIZWE BANZI IS DEAD.

act before the boss and his rage at having to perform that act. He takes bitter pleasure at watching bosses scrape before Ford: "For the first time, I saw them playing my role for life". Yet bitter indignation is not the dominant tone. Styles has had the strength to break away from wage slavery to become his own boss. As a photographer, he explains, it is his job " to record the history of my people" and to preserve their dreams.

A Dream Preserved

One of those whose dreams he puts on film is Sizwe Banzi, played by Winston Ntshona. Sizwe has been trapped by the passbook system. In South Africa every black person has to carry an identification book with his entire work record in it. All this information is on computer—there is no escape. The only way Sizwe can get work is to assume the name of a dead man whose book he finds. "Dumb book" is the refrain of this section of the play where we see Sizwe's torment at accepting the terrible indignity of giving up his own name. His friend argues that black men cannot afford pride. Sizwe becomes Robert, we knew that he keeps his faith in a better, more human future from the dreamy and humorously dandified pose he assumes before the photographer.

SIZWE BAZI IS DEAD makes an exceptionally fine evening of theatre. It serves as a reminder of the continuing injustice of South African apartheid, yet gives us hope that it will not last forever. By their very presence before us two actors show us that they have overcome the indignity to which they were born. "We own nothing except ourselves," they tell us. But that's enough. They are extraordinary human beings and by the end of the evening we have come to know them.

brass tacks
Man Gives UI Two Cents Worth

by Mike Holodnak
Modern Times Staff

At the moment when our electricity was being disconnected I knew exactly how Jesse James felt in the days when the railroad tycoons were looting the small farmers.

The whole thing started out some months back when my wife Stephanie and I sent the UI a note stating the reason for our refusal to pay the fuel adjustment costs.

The standard UI answer came, an explanation and a mild threat.

When the situation began to come to a head, Stephanie and I sent the UI another letter.

Dear Sir:

Since we've never been delinquent on payment of any of our bills we have contracted, we have always had a good credit rating. This also holds true for the UI payments as the UI's records will confirm.

However, we have been refusing to pay the fuel adjustment costs because we did not contract for them, plus the fact that we believe they are illegal.

On Aug. 3, we received a registered letter threatening to disconnect our service if we did not pay our FAC by Aug. 5.

Then on Aug. 19, a UI agent came to our home requesting payment on the FAC. I spent nearly an hour explaining to him why we were refusing to pay it, and he left without disconnecting our lines, saying that the others, less sympathetic than he, would follow.

On Sept. 20 the same UI agent returned asking for payment on the FAC, and telling us we would be disconnected next week if we did not pay something on it. On his way out he left with us an envelope.

I had told him that I was thoroughly disgusted with the UI and the UI's tactics, and that the UI will not continue for too long to get away with pushing around the little guy because the little guy is no longer little. The little guy all over the state, through the Connecticut Consumers Groups, is getting united.

Anyway, for now, the UI's threats, intimidations and harassments had worked.

To prevent the UI disconnecting our electricity we have decided to compromise on our principles.

We therefore agree to pay toward the FAC the sum of 2 cents per month. Enclosed, scotch taped to this letter, are two pennies as the first installment.

Yours Truly,
Mike and Stephanie Holodnak.

Encouraged By Local Residents

This letter also appeared in the Milford paper and we received many phone calls from local residents encouraging us in our action.

But on the following day another UI agent came to our door and said he was there to get either the full FAC payment or he would disconnect our lines.

I told him that we had already mailed something toward the FAC.

The agent looked at me and said drily, "Two cents is not enough."

I asked him how much would be enough. He said they wanted the full amount .

I told him I did not have the full amount at which point he went to the north side of the house and started to work on the electric meter.

I got on the phone and was put in touch with the UI's credit manager, who turned out to be a hard nosed guy, a typical company hack.

Hardnose told me in no uncertain terms that we would remain disconnected until we paid up.

I told him that if we incurred any damage because of no electric power the UI would be held responsible.

He said, "Sue us, it's your privilege, but the meter stays off etc." He added that his legal department was backing him up.

After bargaining with him, he finally settled for nothing less than $25 down.

I said it was blackmail.

He said, "Call it what you want. Your electricity will remain off until you agree."

Having no other choice I agreed but by then the man who did the disconnecting had already driven away.

I called UI credit department four times and each time speaking to a different person, all of whom told me the man, who was busy making disconnections all over Milford, would be down as soon as he called in.

Finally three-and-a-half-hours after we were disconnected the man was back. He told me that he was kept so busy making disconnections and reconnections that he had missed his lunch.

I gave him $25 and he gave me a receipt. Then we both went to the side of the house where I watched him make a very simple reconnection which could be done by almost anyone.

Anyway the UI's efforts to turn back the tide of protest, is nothing more than an exercise in futility. Everyday more people are joining the protest.

Mike Aulenti, president of the Connecticut Consumers Group, has revealed the group already has more than 100,000 members.

In addition to the spokesmen of the CCG acting as intervenors against the UI at the Public Utilities Commission hearings, the CCG also has a court suit pending against the UI.

Community Calendar

EVERY DAY- –Hill Health Center has a new Transportation Phone Number. Call 436-8477 if you need transportation to the Center.

Oct. 18-20 Fri—Sun. –**Albertus Magnus Alumnae Weekend.** Among other events will be a performance by the Celebration Mime Theatre Co., a Memorial Mass for Sister Vincentia Burns, and inauguration of Sister Francis de Sales Heffernan as the college's eleventh president.

Oct. 25 Fri. **Teacher's Covention Afternoon.** "Pot Luck Crafts" with Jan Murray (TTC Crafts Advisor) and Joy Wulke (TTC Environmental Design). 2-5:30 pm. at the Teacher's Center, 425 College St. One of many activities. For more info, call: 776-5987

Until Oct.31 –**Art At The Public Library.** Main Branch: Judy Cimaglia-drawings, Pamela La Rigina-pen and ink; Chapel Branch: Alberta Pryor-oils Mixed Media; Mitchell Branch: Joan Killion-Collagraph and Assemblages.

Nov. 1-3. Fri.-Sun. –**Black Expo '74.** Tony Brown, executive producer of Black Journal on national television will be the keynote speaker on Fri. at 9 pm. This economic-cultural-educational exposition will take place at the New Haven Armory. For more info contact Jimmy Jones, Program Director, 140 Goffe St. 777-3661

Nov. 23 Sat. –**Boy's Village Dinner-Dance.** Sonny Costanza and Orchestra will provide music for this fundraising event at the Sheraton-Park Plaza. Tickets available at Anthony's Jewelers, 900 Chapel Sq. Mall or Conn. Refining Oil Co., 105 Water St. (West Haven).

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A three session lecture workshop mini-course for men and women in social work presenting NEW KNOWLEDGE—NEW AWARENESS NEW SKILLS. FEE IS $25 (covers all three sessions—$10 for each individual session.) For more information call 246-6657.

Oct 26 Sat. –**"A Feminist Perspective on Social Work Counseling and Therapy"** American Red Cross, Farmington, Ct. 9:30—2:30.

Nov. 2. Sat. –**The Social Worker and the Feminist Movement.** U. Conn. School of SW. W. Hartford, Ct. 9:30-2:30.

Nov. 9 Sat. –**Images of Women in Psychoanalytic Theory and Practice.** American Red Cross. Farminton, Ct. 9:30—2:30.

How Women Began to Hem in the Boss

This is the second part of a two-part series reviewing the important role of women in the labor movement.

by Susan Bucknell
Modern Times Staff

The first unions composed largely of women were formed in the years between 1903 and 1917. The garment trades were a natural place for such unions to originate. Large proportions of the labor force were women, working under terrible conditions.

The shops were small, housed in filthy buildings. Windows were nailed shut and and little light came through the grimy panes. The noise from the machinery was deafening.

The workers were largely Italian and Jewish. Their limited knowledge of English, their youth, inexperience and desperate need for work, put them at the mercy of the boss. There were endless fines: for talking, laughing or singing, for stains on goods from machine oil, for mistakes and for stitches either too crooked or too long.

Often the girls had to buy their own machines and thread. They often worked until 10 at night, with no overtime pay, and only a sandwich for supper. Wages were as low as $6 a week, and they were often withheld.

Wages were also lowered by the constant oversupply of desperate women and also by the sweated wages of women working at home. When the girls left work, many would bring home "bundles" for family to sew all night. Beatrice Bonifacio, (Secretary for the New Haven local of the ILGWU), remembers when her sister would bring home bundles from work:

"We used to sit around the dining room--my mother and four girls. My younger sister could not sew, so she used to thread the needle for us. My father had a big pin cushion and he would put the needles on there; and we would all sew--often till 4:30 or so in the morning."

The Uprising of the 20,000

In 1909 the shirtwaist makers of New York and Philadelphia struck to change these conditions. The strike lasted for 13 weeks of a cold and bitter winter. Over 700 women were arrested, beaten, and abused. Many were accused of being street walkers and prostitutes. The judges hated unions and treated women especially badly because they thought it was "unladylike" to strike. But the strength of the union was no secret. One young striker, Theresa Malkiel wrote in her diary: "If us working girls will stand together and pull with all our might in the same direction, we'll be sure to win."

Despite these organizing efforts, reform did not come until the public conscience was touched by tragedy. On March 25, 1911, fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaiste Company. The girls were crowded onto the 8th floor. The doors were locked to keep out union organizers. The "fire escape" did not reach ground level. Within half an hour, 143 women had burned to death.

Finally, in the early years of the twenthieth century, with continued union pressure, protective laws were passed. Passed to protect women workers, these laws shortened hours and prohibited night work.

Women were in the forefront of the major CIO organizing drives in the '30s and '40s. In New Haven, for example, many women helped organize the dress and shirt industry and started locals of the ILGWU and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. The unions wiped out home-work, shortened hours and raised wages. One woman organizer said that what the union achieved in the dress shops "was like a dream."

Rosie the Riveter

For the first time, in World War II, employers gave women skilled jobs in industry, trained them and paid decent wages. Employers also made it easier for married women to work by providing day-care and hours off for shopping. Rosie the Riveter and Cora the Core Maker were national heroines. Union membership increased: in 1930 women were eight percent of all union members, and in 1944, 22 percent.

After the war employers pushed women back into lower-paying office, domestic, and service work. But in the 50s, women and men in these areas organized. In New Haven, the office workers at the Knights of Columbus started a local, as did the service workers at Yale. The teachers also organized. Recently the dietary department workers at Yale-New Haven Hospital joined Local 1199. Restaurant workers are organizing, and most recently, nurses. Women, black and white, are strongly represented in all these industries.

Today

Employers are always trying to turn the clock back. They would like to bring back the conditions of the nineteenth century in many of the industries where women work. The dress shops in Fair Haven are trying to wipe out union advances. They are taking advantage of new immigrants who do not speak the language, or older women, desparate for work. They are even trying to bring back home-work.

In the restaurant industry, waitresses are required to buy their own uniforms, in the same way the shirtwaist makers had to buy their thread in the early 1900s; and the restaurant owners are fighting unionization as hard as the owners of dress shops did at the beginning of the century.

But there are some new factors where women are concerned. More women than ever before are working. Women are 40 percent of the labor force. Most women work before and after they have children, and many women work while their children are young. Most families need two incomes. Many women are supporting families by themselves. Women are no longer "temporary," and they are certainly not working for "pin money."

Secondly, women, through their unions, are beginning to demand that employers provide the supports which women need--day-care, maternity benefits and higher pay for women's jobs. A recent government study found that the median income of women union members in 1970 was roughly *70 percent* higher than that of non-union women.

But there is still a long way to go. In 1970, only 10.3 percent of women were unionized, as compared with 28.5 percent of men.

The formation of the Coalition of Labor Union Women marks a new stage in the determination of women to organize alongside men, and to play an active part in the labor movement. It is to such organizing efforts, and to the millions of working women that we pay tribute.

Hank Murray Feted at Debs Day Dinner

by Modern Times Staff

Henry F. Murray, retiring New England Regional Director of the AFL-CIO's C.O.P.E.(Committee on Political Education) has received the 1974 Eugene V. Debs award. The honor for outstanding community service in the labor movement and in politics, was presented at a dinner on Sept. 27, 1974.

Over 100 people, including representatives from many unions and from community groups, attended the dinner held in Murray's honor at the Steakhouse West in New Haven.

The dinner was sponsored by the Democratic Socialist Organization Committee, a group dedicated to justice for working people in the tradition of Eugene V. Debs.

Anthony J. Delorenzo, Regional Director of the United Auto Workers, presented the award to Murray, praising Murray's long years of service to the labor movenment and to progressive causes.

On accepting the award, Murray praised young people who are picking up the political work to which he has devoted his life.

The evening's keynote address was presented by Ralph Helstein, President Emeritus of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, and past President of the United Packinghouse Workers, AFL-CIO. Helstein's speech was fitting tribute to Murray's career. Warning againist the corruption of respectability, Nelstein said that the future depends on unreasonable people, people unreasonable enough to work for a better world.

Condemns Polluting Corporations

Helstein condemned America's corporations which have polluted the environment, while causing unemployment and inflation, in pursuit of their private profits. Helstein emphasized that today's political leaders will not solve the country's problems. Pointing out that President Gerald Ford is an"accessory after the fact to the Watergate cover-up," Helstein urged all working people to form a political organization which would challenge the corporate monopoly of control over our government and economy.

This was the third Debs Dinner. Past recipients of the award were Vincent J. Sirabella, President of the Greater New Haven Central Labor Council and Anthony J. Delorenzo, Regional Director of the UAW.

No Mystery to Need for CLUW

by Renee Poirier

For the past six months, a number of women from across Connecticut have been meeting and working towards organizing local chapters of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).

CLUW began in 1972, when a group of trade union women met because they felt the need for a coalition to organize working-class women around the issues that relate to them.

The first annual national CLUW convention was held last March in Chicago. Some 3200 women representing 58 unions met and established the guidelines and goals of the group. State convenors were selected to organize chapters within their states.

The goals of CLUW, as set down in Chicago, are: 1) to organize unorganized women; 2) to encourage affirmative action in the workplace; 3) to encourage the participation of women in the political and legislative process, and 4) to advance more active roles by women within their unions.

First National Organization

According to Susan Bucknell, a Connecticut CLUW member , the formation of CLUW is particularly important because it is the first national labor organization to focus on issues relevant to working class women. For these women real changes revolve around their conditions of their employmen: bread and butter issues, adequate daycare facilities, equal pay for equal work, and a voice in making the decisions that affect their daily lives.

According to the organization's Statement of Purpose, "the Coalition of Labor Union Women seeks to promote unionism and to encourage unions to be more aggressive in their efforts to bring unorganized women under collective bargaining agreements, particularly in those areas where there are large numbers of unorganized and/or minority women."

Action Against Discrimination

CLUW also "...seeks to encourage women, through their unions, to recognize and take positive action against job discrimination in hiring, promotion, classification and other aspects of work."

As Claire Pluff, President of Local 329 of the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), stated in announcing the formation of the New Haven Chapter of CLUW at the Greater New Haven Central Labor Council September meeting, the group stresses, that women must be organized and once members, "women in their unions must be active, not passive."

For more information on the New Haven Chapter, call Renee Poirier at 776-0846, Susan Bucknell at 468-1926, or Jeanne Jordan at 248-4181.

President's Plan is Pro-Business

continued from page 1

benefits for another 13 weeks to those who have run out of benefits and will grant 26 weeks to those not now eligible for unemployment compensation (mainly agricultural, government and self-employed workers). Interestingly, Ford told us that these extra benefits would not have to be contributed to by business--which was the lawful system until now--but would be paid for entirely out of the new tax revenue--that is to say, out of our new taxes.

Ford's Plan Is A Deal

Ford's "plan" thus boils down to a deal that leaves big business better off than before while hitting hard at the middle-income levels of American society, particularly at those families in which a second adult has gone to work to keep up a desired standard of living. A very small crumb is thrown to the desperate folk at the bottom of the economy to prevent them from tearing the place apart.

The small amount of money--compared to the size of our economy--guarantees that nothing will happen soon to slow inflation--and little may ever result from a "plan" like this. What Ford is counting on is big business to solve the problem once the government gives them ever more tax breaks and profit boosts. He hopes that big business will produce more, while taxes force people to buy less, thereby bringing prices down. He hopes that by allowing unemployment to go higher, unions will be less able to lower corporation profits by demanding higher wages.

Controlled Recession

Ford's "plan" is the old conservative idea that a recession is the cure for inflation. The new wrinkle on the old idea is for the government to carefully *"manage" the recession. But the management of the last recession in 1970-71* failed to stop inflation, even when supplemented by the wage-price controls after August 1971.

Ford could have raised more money without taxing individuals, done more for the millions unable to find work through no fault of their own, and lowered every citizen's bill for energy. What Ford could have done is to nationalize the oil, coal, gas, and electricity sectors of the economy on the grounds of their being essential to the national interest in general and to the solution of inflation now in particular. The enormous profits of these industries could have been cut in half, lowering everyone's bill. The profit that remained would have poured into the US Treasury to stimulate the expansion of needed industries (and jobs) while taking care of the unemployed--all at no extra cost to taxpayers.

school notes

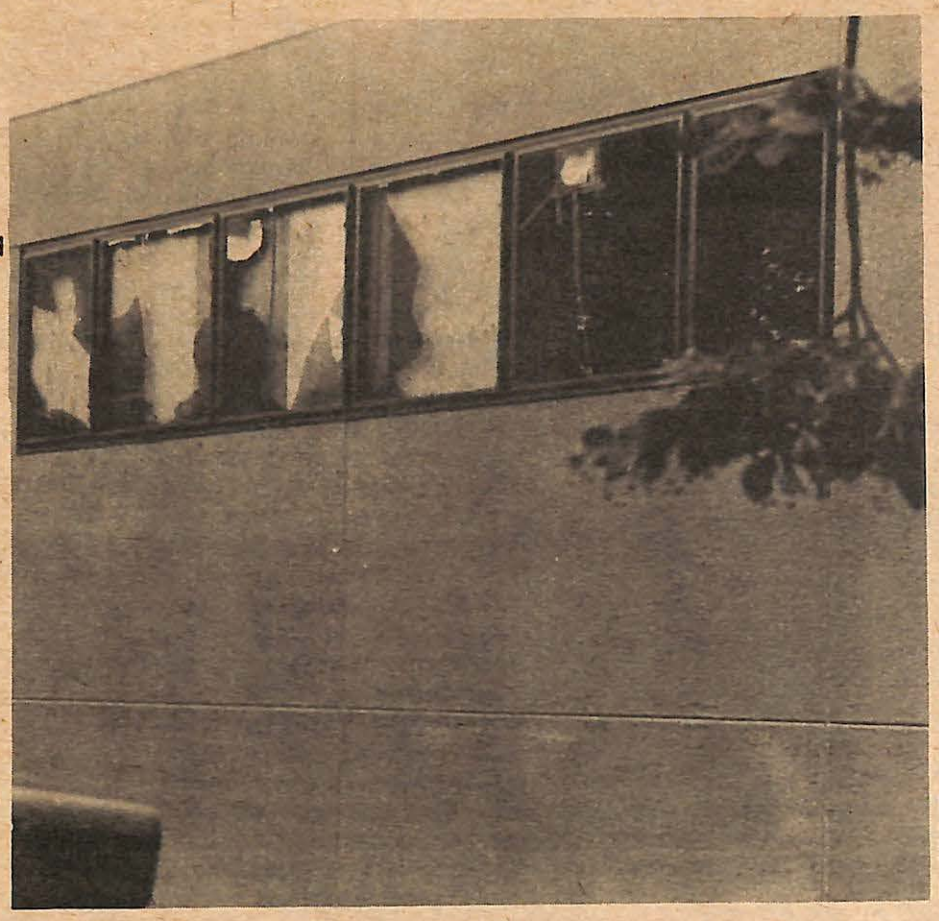
Parents Play Part in School Plan

by Ruth Hein

The controversy over the name of the new school in the East Rock neighborhood was officially settled at the Board of Education meeting on September 9, when five members voted for the name East Rock Community School (instead of Guida Community School). This represents a victory of sorts for the people whose children attend the school and who have the greatest stake in it. It also happily demonstrates that at least some Board members care very much about citizen participation in education and are able to translate their concerns with their own neighborhoods into sympathy with other parts of the city.

As a community school, East Rock shares with Conte and several others some wider programs than are encompassed by an ordinary school day and reach out to more people than the normal school population. Most of these plans will have to remain in limbo until the building actually opens, but some of them are already under way.

The building itself seems to be progressing reasonably well. Many windows have been broken, but since there is a contractual clause that they will be replaced with Lexan (unbreakable plastic) before the plant is turned over to the city, such vandalism has a silver lining. Unfortunately the bureaucratic machinery in New Haven is such that furniture cannot be ordered until the building is near completion. The February occupation date therefore hinges very much on delivery of carpets, desks, bookshelves, and the like.



Nick Heyer

Some of those broken windows at the East Rock Community School

Open for Community Activities

Once the building is in use, however, it will be open during the afternoons and in the evenings for community activities. After much argument between the New Haven Public Library and the school system, arrangements have been made to keep the library open until nine o'clock at night--though there is a very big question whether the stock of adult books will be good enough. The gym will also be available to adults and teen-agers after school, as will special classrooms and shops, meeting rooms, and so on.

Community schools are given special budgets and additional staff. A community coordinator is responsible for programming and initiating activities for all ages and interest groups in a particular neighborhood. As community schools were first projected, this was a full-time job; unfortunately, as budgets have shrunk, some community schools are forced to make do with a part-time coordinator, which means less ambitious, innovative planning. Some years ago, too, Conte School had to give up the public part of its library, leaving Wooster Square without easy access to free reading.

Under present conditions--a school without a building--East Rock Community is muddling along with its community activities. Full funds will not be released until the building is open (some perhaps not until next fall), and the buildings presently used cannot be open after four o'clock. There is a full-time community-relations worker, but the coordinator's job is being done on a part-time basis by two of the school's teachers. There is now an afterschool program for students out of community funds, but it is severely limited by lack of equipment as well as time.

Broad Community Served

Nor has it been possible to extend activities beyond the immediate school. However, the parents' organization now being formed is anxious to include on its executive board people from the community, especially the retired.

The community being served by the East Rock Community School is not very big on the map; but it includes an astonishingly wide range of people--from fifth-generation New Haveners who have never moved off the block to Japanese graduate students, from the city's top lawyers to families on welfare, from hard-hats to nationally known economists. The school's name expresses the intention to serve this diversity of neighbors; the school's parents are eager to see the intention implemented; it only remains for the school administration to promote and support it.

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Art & Politics Weekend

Rick Wolff

The First Annual Arts and Politics Fair was held the weekend of Oct.11-13. On Fri. evening the fair was kicked off with a discussion of literature and music. During the course of the weekend, there were many art exhibits, plays and movies.

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on the job

Machine Shop Can't Grind Him Down

by Christopher Rude

I work as a first piece inspector at American Powdered Metals (A. P.M.) in North Haven. I like my job. It's clean and interesting. The pay is not bad. I work with some people that I really like. But I do not like working at A.P. M. It's a real sweat shop.

Though I'm part of Quality Control, I work with Production. The set-up men will put a mold in a press, adjust it a bit, run a few parts, then bring them to me. I make up the gauges for the job: snap gauges, plug gauges, dial indicators, and so forth. Then I check the parts on a few critical dimensions, using micrometers, comparators, height gauges, or whatever is needed. If the pieces are in gauge, then I O.K. the job to run. If I reject them, then the set-up men have to do some more work and then return to me. At any rate, I must accept the job if it is to run.

There's a lot of pressure on me. I have to work quickly and accurately. Sometimes when I reject a job , a set-up man will get angry. And the production foreman often gets on my back. But I don't blame the set-up men, though sometimes I give the foreman a hard time. I try to be fair, but you know how it is.

The best thing about working is talking and joking with the people you work with. I work in an enclosed area and so don't get to see very many people, but we have our own community within the inspection room. We talk about the world and politics, and about ourselves and our families. But mostly, we talk about the job, about how it is and about how it could be. Sometimes the conversation is intimate; sometimes it is profound. But then we joke and go through some absurd routines and begin working again. When the people are good then work is fun. But the fun at A.P.M. takes place against a background of dirt and toil.

Nick Heyer

Christopher Rude.

The production areas are hot, noisy, and dirty. The plant makes metal parts by compressing metal dust into various shapes and then heat treating these until they are like ordinary metal parts. So powdered metal dust is always floating in the air. It contaminates everything: your clothing, your skin, your lungs. Even though the inspection room is air conditioned, I come home coated with a film of dust. The operators work right in front of the presses and so they breathe the dust all day long. They are mostly Black or Puerto Rican women who will never get ahead here, and who get only $2.50 an an hour. But they don't complain . They are scared. I don't blame them. The job market is tight.

work is interesting

I'm lucky, my job is much better. I get paid more, and I don't have very many expenses. But still I come home feeling empty and angry. The first piece work doesn't take much time at all, so to keep busy I do a lot of lay-out work. I find some finished parts, make copies of the proper blue prints, and then check the parts against the prints. The work can be interesting and it takes up a lot of time, but it all comes to nothing. I've found a part that was 100% right and I've found some that were positively bad. But still they're shipped, and still the customer mers buy them. Everytime I find some that are really bad, I see my foreman. He tells me to make copies of my reports and that there will be a meeting with Production about the poor quality. But both he and I know what it'll never happen. Yet I do what I'm supposed to do. I keep busy. My file gets thicker and thicker. But I don't care. When I quit, I'll take the file with me. They'll never miss it.

Atmosphere of mistrust & hostility

But if the dust and the absurdity don't get me , then the favoritism will. I keep busy, but there is a guy in my department who doesn't do a thing all day long. I don't even know what he's supposed to do do. If I come in late or take a long coffee break, I get yelled at. But the Chairman--that's what we call him--can get away with murder. He'll even get a hair cut on Company time. And you can bet that at least three times a week he'll go out for an hour hour lunch and come back drunk. On Fridays the Chairman is so bad that he'll go shut down a few presses just for the hell of it. My foreman knows about all of this, but he doesn't do a thing. He and the Chairman are buddies. I wouldn't mind it so much, but people tell me that this kind of thing goes on throughout the shop. Every department has its pets. And departments are put against departments. Maintenance looks down on everyone. The result is an atmosphere of mistrust and hostility. Like the dust, it hangs in the air. You don't know who to talk to. You don't know who's a fink. A.P.M. is like a family that really needs counseling. It's sick.

But management likes it this way. If you keep the work force divided, then there won't be any trouble. The bosses don't care; they really don't care. They say that they're interested in your welfare and then they lay you off. All they care about it the profits. You're just part of the machinery. When one of the big shots comes strutting around, he thinks every one respects him, but I for one feel like singing a version of the song, "You're so Vain." I really don't need bosses. My foreman hasn't helped me a bit. Some day I think we'll just let the bosses go.

You Can't Stand the Heat?

Air-Condition the Kitchen!

continued from page 1

the symptomsof heat stress, and should not be required to remain for more than a short period of time in an excessively hot spot.

The hospital dodged the issue. They refused the demand for air conditioning, claiming that during the summer there had been faults in the ventilating system, which had since been fixed. However, no Dietary Department worker felt any difference in the hot conditions after this supposed improvement. But since the Union members took action, the hospital has begun providing salt tablets. They have also promised to begin in service education on the recognition and treatment of heat stress.

Local 1199 hasn't won the heat battle yet. But it has advanced on a few fronts. Union members plan to renew their protest next summer. In the meantime, they are planning with NHOHSP to monitor the hospital's proposed education program, to make sure that all workers get all the information they need to help protect themselves from the heat hazard. Hopefully, the hospital will learn that its employees won't work in unsafe conditions.

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W.H.Board Tries to Turn Clock Back

by Stanley Heller, President, West Haven Federation of Teachers, AFT

This is our toughest year of negotiations We've been at it since January, with no end in sight. The board started the year with proposals for 44 contract changes, mostly wholesale deletions. They're down to two proposals now: *delete all limits on teachers' working hours; delete all limits on the length of the teachers' work year.* When we pointed out the fascinating similarities between the board's proposed working conditions and chattel slavery, the board negotiator looked at us and with a straight face told us all the board was looking for was a little "flexibility."

The board's monetary offer, until Labor Day, was a generous 1.8% raise. Every single one of our non-monetary proposals were rejected out of hand. The board's response to all of them was,"We don't intend to give up control of the school system." At one point, the board lawyer said, "Face it, you can't allow the inmates to run the asylum".

In the spring, we ran a petition campaign and had 200 teachers picket the board of education building and pack the board meeting. During the summer we ran paid ads in the local paper and sent out three mailings to over 700 West Haven unionists. We also set up a school employees council to engender cooperation between our union, the non-certified school employees (custodians, clerks, and others), and the paraprofessionals.

Teachers Offered Little

Our efforts got negotiations going again on Labor Day weekend, for all three unions. The paraprofessionals contract was settled. The non-certified employees got a significantly better offer. However, all the board proposed for teachers was a 3.5% raise and a 0.3% increase in fringe benefits.

The teachers decided to go back to school without a contract and work under the terms of the expired contract. The next step is arbitration. The arbitration "awards" won't reach us until the end of October or mid-November. With over 30 items outstanding, the panel's advice will cost us a pretty penny.

Right now, we're hanging in there and planning and preparing for the hard months ahead.

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